

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name East San Jose Carnegie Library
other names/site number East San Jose Branch of the San Jose Public Library

2. Location

street & number 1102 E. Santa Clara St. not for publication
city, town San Jose vicinity
state California code CA county Santa Clara code 085 zip code 95116

3. Classification

| | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district | <u>1</u> | <u> </u> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | <u> </u> | <u> </u> sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <u> </u> | <u> </u> structures |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> Total |

Name of related multiple property listing: California Carnegie Libraries
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Kathryn Guattieri Signature of certifying official Date 10/22/90

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. **Entered in the National Register**

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Alvina Byers Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 12/16/90

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/library

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/library

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Stucco

Metal lathe

roof

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

CALIFORNIA CARNEGIE LIBRARIES: EAST SAN JOSE CARNEGIE LIBRARY

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The East San Jose Carnegie Library, a 36' by 46' rectangle, one story over a raised basement, of plaster with wood trim, is an example of the Classical Revival in which there is a projecting central portico, pedimented under a gable roof. Here the portico is supported by pairs of simple turned wooden columns. The building was constructed in 1907; in 1981 a new wing was added to the rear, separated from the main building by a low section, set well back, which serves both to disassociate the new wing from the old and to provide a ground level entrance lobby for both buildings. These additions have not detracted from the integrity of the original building. Its corner site, its height over a raised basement, and its well maintained classical ornamentation, emphasize the unique character of this historic public building in a neighborhood of small commercial and residential structures.

Viewed from the front, the original building is surrounded by a low parapet which steps up to behind the gabled projecting portico. Below, the wooden cornice extends over carved rafters and small dentils, all of wood. These are now painted dark brown and contrast with the light beige of the stucco facade, and the light chocolate of the foundation. The frieze is plain, broken only by a vent, covered with ornamental grill, above each window; above the portico it bears the words "East San Jose Carnegie Library." Under the extended portico, the entrance projects slightly from the building facade. Paired Doric columns, rising from the floor, support the portico. Stairs rise directly from the sidewalk to the portico and are flanked by low, wide solid concrete rails.

On either side of the central portico is a wide and single paned window with transom, simply framed above a small slightly projecting sill. There are two windows of the same size and shape, widely spaced, on each side of the building. The foundation projects only slightly and at ground level there is a rather large window under each of the first floor windows. The building's wood frame is covered with metallic lathing and plaster inside and out; the architect stressed its fire resistant qualities, noting particularly that the basement area directly under the entrance stairs would be a fire-proof vault for valuable manuscripts and documents.

When the library was to be replaced by a more modern building, neighborhood groups succeeded saving the old building; plans for a new addition, plus restoration of the old building, were eventually substituted. The addition, consisting of an a separate building and a connecting lobby, was constructed in 1981, and some of the renovation has been completed. A new standing seam metal roof was provided for the portico and original trim and doors were painted. A simple pipe hand rail down the center of the stairs, and wrought iron fencing at the sides of the porch, have also been added. In the interior of the old building's first floor, partitions and bathrooms were removed and it is now one large Children's Room. Plans to restore the fireplace were abandoned when it was found to be non-functional. The high ceiling and stained wooden window moldings

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CALIFORNIA CARNEGIE LIBRARIES: EAST SAN JOSE CARNEGIE LIBRARY

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around the tall windows remain, and new lighting was installed. The full size basement of the old building, formerly the Children's Room, now houses a bank of computers for the use of the children's program, plus magazine storage and, in the "vault" area, the local history collection.

The lobby and new building are located at grade level, placing them at a level somewhat lower than the first floor of the old building, and higher than its basement. Access to the old building's first floor and basement from the new lobby is provided by means of stairs and an elevator enclosed in a slightly taller portion of the lobby against the back of the old building. Restrooms accessible from the lobby replace those removed from the old building. Beyond the lobby, the new addition is somewhat longer and wider than the old building, and is proportioned to be compatible. Simple trim on the new wing suggests but does not compete with the classical detailing of the old building.

At the entrance lobby, a pair of simple narrow cement columns on each side of the door, and the words "East San Jose Carnegie Library," suggest central features of the old entrance. The new wing and lobby are de-emphasized visually, positioned well behind the old building and set back from the street, along which trees are planted. Care has been taken that the new construction does not detract from the integrity of the old building as reflected in its style, proportion, and visibility as the community's unique historic civic building.

The building is located on the southeast corner of a full block that is otherwise vacant, the former site of a school that has been relocated a few blocks away. The remainder of the block is privately owned, but the neighborhood groups which saved the library from destruction carefully scrutinize various new uses contemplated for it by the owner. A San Jose library bond issue scheduled for election soon will include money to purchase 5000 square feet of that block for expansion of the library grounds. The new property would be adjacent to a grove of shade trees planted along the side the building on the eastern side of the library.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Social History
Architecture

Period of Significance

1907-1921

Significant Dates

1907-8

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

Lenzen, Jacob
Lenzen, Theodore

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

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CALIFORNIA CARNEGIE LIBRARIES: EAST SAN JOSE CARNEGIE LIBRARY
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The East San Jose Carnegie Library, the oldest public library in service in Santa Clara County, is also one of the only tangible reminders of the brief existence, between 1906 and 1911, of the City of East San Jose. Application for Carnegie funding was made just seven days after voter approval of the incorporation of East San Jose. The community was offered \$7000 for a library building, and in accordance with terms of Carnegie giving regarding a site and library maintenance, the city provided a site near other civic buildings then planned, and committed \$700 annually to maintain the building and the collection. Many Carnegie libraries reflected the community pride in public buildings stimulated by Chicago's 1893 Columbian Exposition; the East San Jose Carnegie is an example of the Classical Revival in a building of modest proportions, and in a community which soon afterward lost its political identity. The library opened in January 1908. In 1974, faced with the loss of their Carnegie building, the community succeeded in saving, renovating, and expanding it, and in having the East San Jose Carnegie Library designated a local Historical Landmark.

Five Carnegie libraries were built in Santa Clara County. In the Santa Clara Valley itself, Los Gatos, San Jose, Palo Alto and East San Jose were constructed between 1903 and 1907; only East San Jose remains and it continues to serve the community as a public library. The fifth Carnegie is located further south at Gilroy. That building, constructed in 1910 and now a museum, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The area that was to become East San Jose began as a rural settlement across Coyote Creek from San Jose. The East San Jose Homestead Association had been surveyed in 1869; by 1876 there were 250 residents. Neighbor San Jose, incorporated in 1859, was by far the largest community in Santa Clara County. The 1900 census showed San Jose's population as 21,500, while the smaller communities of Gilroy, Los Gatos, Palo Alto, and Santa Clara averaged about 2000. East San Jose's growth was slow but steady and when it incorporated in 1906 it estimated its population at 1400; it appeared on the 1910 census with a population of 1661.

Prohibitionist sentiment was locally strong; the most prominent reason given for incorporation was concern that saloons were moving out from San Jose along Alum Rock Avenue (now E. Santa Clara St.) and county law enforcement was not meeting the attendant problems. The promise of better roads and police and fire protection were also influential. The election was held on July 20, 1906 and incorporation won by two votes.

Just seven days later Jackson Hatch, the new city attorney, wrote Andrew Carnegie requesting funds for a library, which he stated was "among the utilities that we need most." City trustees had already set up a library in "the room occupied by the Town officials, i.e. The Board of Trustees, Marshal, Clerk and Recorder." The room is described, in supplementary answers to the Carnegie questionnaire, as 15' x 18' in size, "very neat and well selected." No funds had been allocated; all furnishings and books had been donated by the trustees. Fear of fire, lack of

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privacy for city business, and expectation of receipt of many more donated books dictated the need for larger, permanent quarters. The May 2, 1907, Carnegie offer of \$7000 was readily accepted; on May 9, 1907, Hatch notified Carnegie treasurer R.A. Franks that a site had been provided and an ordinance passed establishing annual \$700 support for the library. Ground was broken on September 7, 1907 and the building opened on January 14, 1908.

A volunteer fire department was established just across Adams (now E. 23rd) from the site of the Carnegie library, and the City Hall, jail, and East San Jose School were all nearby. Of these, only the Carnegie library remains. By 1911 saloons had been banished, leaders had tired of the responsibility of running a small city, and San Jose, with a reform government and a professional city manager, no longer seemed so threatening. An election to consolidate with San Jose carried by a 10-1 vote.

During the short life of East San Jose, concern for fire was evidenced in many city and library trustee actions. Besides its proximity to the fire house, the new building, with its metallic lathing and plastering, was said by the architects, Jacob and Theodore Lenzen, to be as fireproof as more expensive brick.

Both Lenzens are mentioned, but not together, as architects of the East San Jose Library, giving rise to some confusion. In California's Architectural Frontier, Kirker mentions Jacob and Theodore Lenzen as among those German nationals who were prominent builders in the 1850's and 1860's, the Lenzens having settled in San Jose in 1861. Several newspaper articles mention the "Lenzen Brothers." But it appears that Jacob and Theodore did not practice together, though each is credited with buildings built between 1860 and 1900. Jacob had a son, Theodore, with whom he practiced between 1884 and 1900. The Theodore who had arrived in 1861 formed a partnership with his own son, probably Louis, in 1901. Among the San Jose buildings credited to one or both Lenzens are the City Hall, Lenzen Building, Hall of Records, Odd Fellows Hall, Sweigert Building, and the Letitia Building. No mention is made of the East San Jose Carnegie, or of the Salinas Carnegie, also attributed to a Lenzen.

In Santa Clara County, the larger 1902 San Jose Carnegie, constructed with a \$50,000 Carnegie grant, featured a massive projecting and columned portico and a dome. Los Gatos and Palo Alto each received \$10,000 in 1901 and 1903 respectively; their libraries strongly incorporated Spanish elements with classical form. Gilroy's \$10,000 building, funded in 1906, is a more elegant example of the Classical Revival with pedimented portico. Only the East San Jose and Gilroy Carnegies remain. The East San Jose building, though funded later, was completed two years before Gilroy, making East San Jose the oldest remaining Carnegie as well as the oldest public library in service in Santa Clara County.

Over the years the neighborhood of East San Jose has become home to a number of ethnic groups. Portuguese dairymen settled early. There is a Black population of long standing, several

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families having lived in the area for three generations. More recently the Hispanic and Southeast Asian populations have increased. This diversity is illustrated by the signs in the nearby businesses as well as in the library itself which maintains Spanish, Vietnamese, Cambodian and Portuguese language collections, plus an adult new-reader section. Neighborhood groups are numerous: the 24th Street Association, Olinder Residents, Northside Homeowners Association, Five Wounds Parents Group, to name a few.

In 1974 a report was issued by the city's library administration documenting the reasons why the East San Jose Branch Library should be replaced. The neighborhood groups joined together as Friends of the East San Jose Carnegie Library, and in 1979 succeeded in saving the building and secured funds to renovate it and to build an addition. Also, the group objected to their library being unofficially termed "East Branch," as well as to a move to officially change its name to "East San Jose Branch." Due to their efforts, the name will remain as it is written below the pediment at both the old and new entrances, "East San Jose Carnegie Library." The building was declared a San Jose historical landmark in 1977.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

California Carnegie Survey

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 10 600320 4133760
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 1, Block 7, as shown on that certain map entitled "Map of East San Jose Homestead Association," recorded in Book B of Maps at Page 101, Santa Clara County Records.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lucy Kortum
organization (Sonoma State University) date 11/89 (rev 4/90)
street & number 180 Ely Rd. telephone 707/762-6219
city or town Petaluma state CA zip code 94954

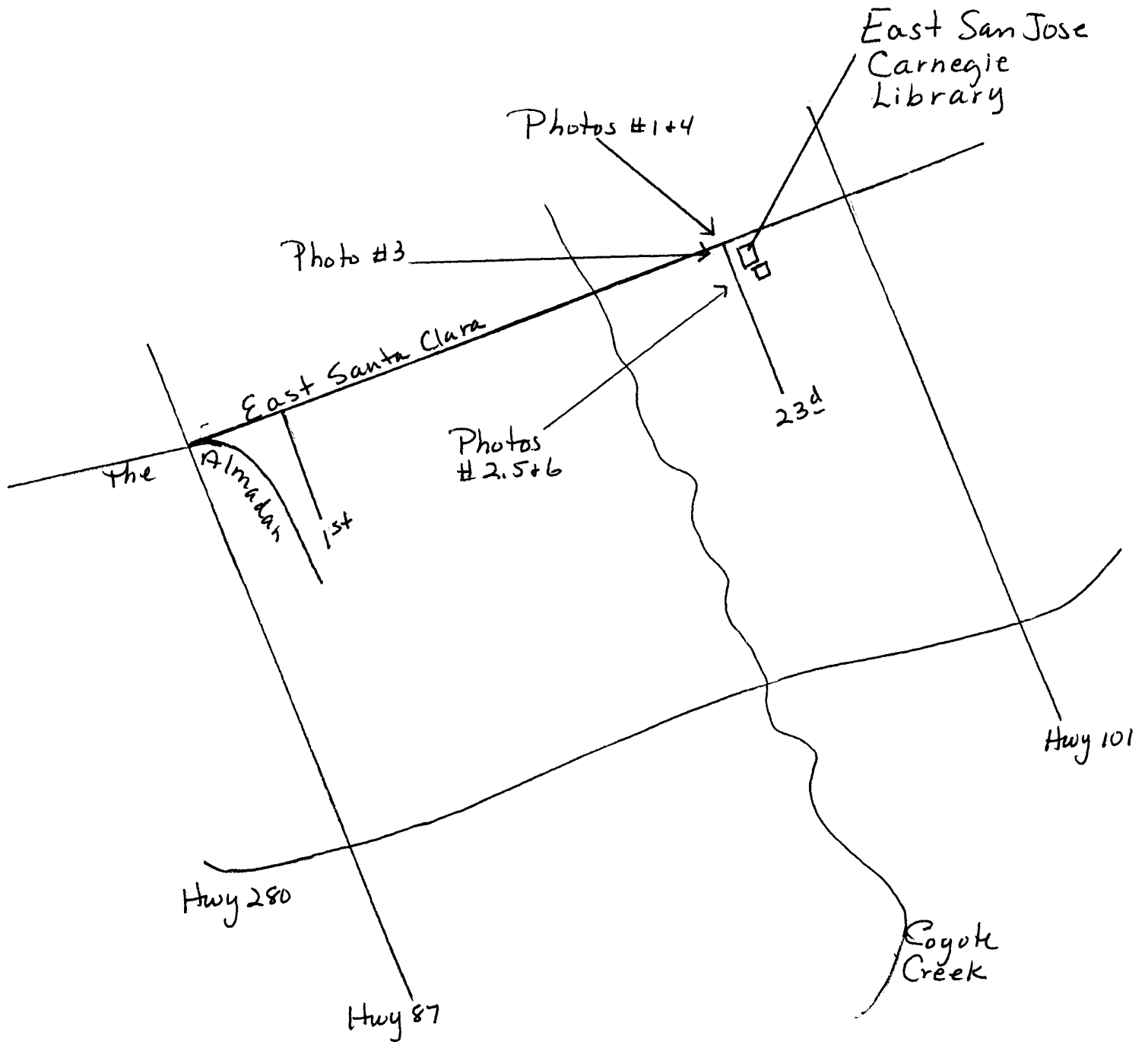
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- Guinn, J.M. History of the State of California and Biographical Record of Coast Counties. Chicago: Chapman, 1904.
- Held, Ray E. The Rise of the Public Library in California. Chicago: American Library Association, 1973.
- Hook, Robert D. "History of the San Jose Public Library: 1903-1937." MA Thesis, San Jose State University, 1968.
- Joachim, Leland. "Aging Carnegie Library to get new life, new face." San Jose Mercury East, September 13, 1978.
- Kirker, Harold. California's Architectural Frontier. New York: Russell & Russell, 1960.
- "Lenzen Brothers Left their Mark on San Jose." San Jose News, June 18, 1954.
- "Work on East San Jose Carnegie Library to Start Today." San Jose Mercury, September 7, 1907.
- City of San Jose. San Jose Historic Landmark Nomination No. 10, November 2, 1977.
- City of San Jose. Resolution #49547 of the Council of the City of San Jose designating East San Jose Carnegie Library as a Landmark of Special Historical, Architectural, Cultural, or Aesthetic Value or Interest. Dated November 15, 1977.
- City of San Jose. "East Branch Carnegie Library: Renovation and Addition," January 2, 1980.
- Carnegie Corporation Correspondence on microfilm.
- Conversation with Wendy Kay, Librarian, East San Jose Carnegie Library.
- California Carnegie survey form completed by Wendy Kay.



East San Jose Carnegie Library
 102 E. Santa Clara St.
 San Jose, CA
 Santa Clara County



CALIFORNIA CARNEGIE LIBRARIES: EAST SAN JOSE CARNEGIE LIBRARY
PHOTOGRAPHS

1. East San Jose Carnegie Library
- 1102 E. Santa Clara Ave
2. San Jose CA 95116
3. Lucy Kortum
4. August 10, 1989
5. California Carnegie Survey

6. Front of building, view to southeast
7. Photo #1

6. Side of building, view to northeast
7. Photo #2

6. Entrance, view to east
7. Photo #3

6. Entrance detail, view to southeast
7. Photo #4

6. New entrance, connector to addition, view to northeast
7. Photo #5

6. Old, new, and connector, view to northeast
7. Photo #6.